

Increasing production of fruits and vegetables

424. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the farmers would get five to eight per cent more profit by cultivating vegetables and fruits than cereals;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that better roads, irrigation and cultivation technologies alongwith cold storage chains are very much needed to produce vegetables and fruits and if so, whether Government would come forward to provide these facilities to farmers;

(c) whether Government are having any proposal to educate the rural farmers about the technologies for the cultivation of vegetables and fruits; and

(d) the total financial assistance with subsidies proposed/provided to agriculturists, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Human Resource Development through trainings and demonstrations is an integral part of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes on (i) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim (TMNE) launched during 2001-02 and extended to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand during 2003-04 and (ii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM), launched in 2005-06. Under these Schemes, farmers are trained for the adoption of technologies for cultivation of high yielding varieties of fruits and vegetables.

(d) Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 734.67 crore was provided to the farmers under TMNE (from 2001-2002 to 2006-07) and Rs. 1030.34 crore under NHM (from 2005-06 and 2006-07) for taking up various activities relating to production of horticultural crops including fruits and vegetables.